

## TITLE OF THE INVENTION

## DNA ENCODING THE HUMAN SERINE PROTEASE T

## ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

- 5           Here we describe the molecular identification of a cDNA encoding a novel serine protease we have termed protease T. The deduced amino acid sequence encodes a prepro form of 290 amino acids, and its alignment with other well-characterized serine proteases indicates that it is a member of the S1 serine protease family. We have found that the protease T mRNA is expressed in stomach, testis,
- 10 retina, fibroblasts, spinal cord, and several regions of the brain. Protease T mRNA is also found in leukocytes and in the Jurkat (ATCC TIB-152) T cell line. Thus, this protease is potentially involved in gastric, testicular, retinal, dermatological, neurological/neurodegenerative and/or immunological disorders. The protease T gene maps to human chromosome 16p13.3 which is near the tryptase locus. Enzymatically
- 15 active protease T, we have generated, is amenable to further biochemical analyses for the identification of physiological substrates and specific modulators.